

HOUSE BILL 1249

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2000 Regular Session
0lr2540
CF 0lr2854

By: ~~Delegates Shriver and Taylor~~, Taylor, Hixson, Healey, Bartlett, Bozman,
Carlson, Conroy, Finifter, Howard, Heller, Bohanan, Marriott,
Patterson, Phillips, Rosso, and Rudolph

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Judith P. Hoyer Smart Start Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Judith P. Hoyer Smart Start Initiative, a grant
4 program for early child care and education centers and education enhancement
5 and the development of collaborative approaches for the delivery of full-day
6 early care and education and family support services; defining certain terms;
7 designating the Department of Education as the agency supervising the grant
8 program; requiring the Department to distribute the grant funds under the
9 program created by this Act to local school systems on a competitive basis;
10 limiting local school system use of funds to certain purposes; requiring the
11 Department to select an evaluator through a competitive process to measure the
12 effectiveness of the collaborations; requiring the Department to submit certain
13 reports; prohibiting awards under this Act from supplanting other funding; and
14 generally relating to the Judith P. Hoyer Smart Start Initiative and early child
15 care and education centers and education enhancement grant funding.

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Education
18 Section 5-213
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1999 Replacement Volume)

1 Preamble

2 WHEREAS, Recent brain research confirms that the most rapid brain growth
3 occurs in the first three years of life; and

4 WHEREAS, A stimulating environment is essential to brain development and
5 has a major impact on a child's language and cognitive and emotional development;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The overwhelming evidence suggests that it is best to capitalize on
8 the brain's elasticity before age 5, the age at which public education is guaranteed;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, High quality early care and education programs make a significant
11 contribution to the development of skills required by young children to succeed in
12 school; and

13 WHEREAS, Not all Maryland children have access to quality early care and
14 education programs; and

15 WHEREAS, There is an imperative need to improve access to quality early care
16 and education programs through collaborative partnerships; and

17 WHEREAS, Judith P. Hoyer dedicated her life to the education and care of
18 young children and their families; now, therefore,

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article - Education**

22 5-213.

23 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
24 INDICATED.

25 (2) "ACCREDITATION" MEANS THE DETERMINATION THAT A PROGRAM
26 MEETS QUALITY STANDARDS DEFINED BY THE ACCREDITING AGENCY BEYOND
27 STATE CHILD CARE REGULATIONS.

28 (3) "ACCREDITING AGENCY" MEANS A NATIONAL OR STATE AGENCY
29 THAT HAS DEVELOPED A RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING PROCESS.

30 (4) "CREDENTIALING" MEANS THE PROCESS IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL
31 IS AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE BASED ON EDUCATION AND
32 EXPERIENCE.

33 (5) "FULL DAY" MEANS A PERIOD OF TIME DURING THE DAY THAT:

34 (I) MEETS THE NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES; AND

(II) IS NOT LESS THAN 7 HOURS OR MORE THAN 12 HOURS PER DAY.

(6) "JUDY CENTER" MEANS A SITE WHERE COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO PROMOTE SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY BY PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.

~~(6)~~ (7) "PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS" INCLUDES:

(I) PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS;

(II) HEAD START PROGRAMS;

(III) FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;

(IV) LOCAL INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAMS;

(V) CHILD CARE CENTERS AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES;

(VI) FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS;

(VII) HEALTHY FAMILY SITES;

(VIII) PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMS;

(IX) EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AFFILIATED WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

(X) OTHER HOME VISITING, COMMUNITY HEALTH, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES, AND CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES.

(B) THE JUDITH P. HOYER SMART START INITIATIVE, WHICH IS A GRANT PROGRAM FOR EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION CENTERS AND EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, IS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO THE DELIVERY OF HIGH QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

(C) THE GRANT FUNDS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND USED TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INCLUDING JUDY CENTERS THROUGH COORDINATION WITH PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS, AND AGENCIES AGENCIES, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS.

(D) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION.

(E) EACH APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT SHALL INCLUDE:

1 (1) A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOCAL SCHOOL
2 SYSTEM AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDES:

3 (I) THE TERMS OF THE COLLABORATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY
4 THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS;

5 (II) THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL
6 SYSTEM AND THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS; AND

7 (III) A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING ONGOING COMMUNICATION
8 BETWEEN NONPUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY
9 EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

10 (2) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD
11 ASSESSMENT SYSTEM WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE:

12 (I) MEASURABLE OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE
13 COLLABORATION; AND

14 (II) PROCEDURES FOR MEASURING ANNUAL PERFORMANCE;

15 (3) DOCUMENTATION THAT EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION
16 PROGRAMS:

17 (I) MEET VOLUNTARY STATE ACCREDITATION BASED ON
18 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CRITERIA; OR

19 (II) HAVE INITIATED THE PROCESS OF VOLUNTARY STATE
20 ACCREDITATION BY DECEMBER 1, 2000; AND

21 (4) DOCUMENTATION THAT THE COLLABORATION WILL PROVIDE
22 COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION, AND FAMILY
23 SUPPORT SERVICES.

24 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

25 (1) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE GRANT;

26 (2) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF
27 FUNDS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET, AWARD 3-YEAR FUNDING TO LOCAL SCHOOL
28 SYSTEMS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS;

29 (3) SUPERVISE AND MONITOR THE GRANT FUNDS; AND

30 (4) VERIFY THAT GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE MEETING ANNUAL
31 BENCHMARKS.

32 (G) LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS SELECTED TO RECEIVE GRANTS UNDER THIS
33 SECTION SHALL:

1 (1) PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE, FULL-DAY EARLY CARE AND
2 EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INCLUDING JUDY CENTERS IN
3 COLLABORATION WITH THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS;

4 (2) ADMINISTER THE GRANT AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE
5 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE COLLABORATION;

6 (3) SUBMIT FISCAL AND PROGRAM REPORTS AS REQUIRED BY THE
7 DEPARTMENT; AND

8 (4) COORDINATE THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES
9 AND PROGRAMS IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

10 (H) GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS UNDER THIS SECTION
11 SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES THAT CREATE OR ENHANCE THE
12 COLLABORATIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES THROUGH PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND
13 PROGRAMS INCLUDING:

14 (1) ASSISTING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO MEET
15 VOLUNTARY STATE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS;

16 (2) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES LEADING TO INCREASED
17 COMPETENCY AND APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALING RELATED TO EARLY CARE AND
18 EDUCATION SERVICES;

19 (3) MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES;

20 (4) THE PURCHASE OF AND CONTRACTING FOR EARLY CARE AND
21 EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

22 (5) PERSONNEL TO COORDINATE THE COLLABORATION.

23 (I) GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED:

24 (1) TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR ANY PARTICIPATING
25 PROGRAM OR SERVICE; OR

26 (2) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

27 (J) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT THROUGH A COMPETITIVE BIDDING
28 PROCESS AND SUPERVISE AN EVALUATOR WHO SHALL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN
29 EVALUATION PROCESS TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
30 COLLABORATIONS.

31 (K) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL
32 ASSEMBLY:

33 (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, A REPORT DESCRIBING
34 THE PROGRESS AND THE EXPENDITURES OF THE FUND; AND

1 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2004, A SEPARATE REPORT EVALUATING
2 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES BASED ON THE
3 EVALUATION CRITERIA.

4 (L) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ADMINISTER THE
5 GRANT PROGRAM AND TO REQUIRE THAT ALL EXISTING EARLY ELEMENTARY
6 EDUCATION PROGRAMS BE NAMED JUDITH P. HOYER EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall
8 include ~~\$8~~ \$4 million in the fiscal year 2001 budget of the Department of Education to
9 fund the grant program established by this Act.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2000.